

IV. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 36, 38, and 43-53 are pending in the application. Claim 36 is independent. Claims 1-35, 37, and 39-42 have been cancelled. Claims 52 and 53 have been added. Each of Claims 36, 38, and 43-51 have been amended herein. Please note that these claims have been amended for clarity with respect to the specification and drawings, and not for any reason related to patentability. No new matter has been added.

A certified copy of Canadian Patent Application No. 2,310,188 has been filed concurrently with this response in a separate paper.

In response to the objection that all reference numbers in each of Figures 1-8 need descriptive text labels, as explained at pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, replacement sheets for each of Figures 1-8 have been provided. In the replacement sheets, each numbered item in each of Figures 1-8 includes a descriptive text label that corresponds to the description of the respective item in the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

The cancellation of Claims 1-35, 37, and 39-42 moots their rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101, §102(e), §103(a), and §112.

Independent Claim 36 has been amended to make minor clarifications. No new matter has been added.

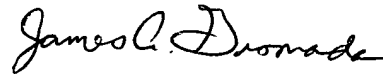
Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that independent Claim 36 has been allowed. Therefore, while specifically traversing the art rejections, and preserving Applicants' right to file a continuation application to pursue the broad but patentable claims, Applicants have amended each of Claims 38 and 43-51 by rewriting each

so that they depend from allowed independent Claim 36, solely to secure immediate allowance thereof. In addition, Applicants have added new dependent Claims 52 and 53 to afford themselves an additional scope of protection commensurate with the specification and drawings. Accordingly, Applicants submit that each of Claims 38 and 43-53 are allowable as being dependent from allowed Claim 36.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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II. Amendments to the Drawings:

Please replace Figures 1-8 with the attached drawings. No new matter has been added.